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STATINTL

Debate on Dodd Is Withheld

By ROBERT WALTERS

Star Staff Writer

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has rejected a member's request that it make public the transcript of a closed meeting where allegations against Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., were discussed.

Dodd was not present at the Feb. 21 executive session when other committee members considered asking him to explain his relationship with Julius Klein, a Chicago public relations man and registered foreign agent.

Columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson said in a March 7 column that members present "debated whether to throw Dodd off the committee" because of his alleged dealings with Klein, who represents West German interests.

"Dodd was saved, thanks to the intervention of Sens. Russell Long, D-La.; Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., and Stuart Symington, D-Mo. They rallied behind him vigorously to preserve the sanctity of the Senate club," the columnists said in a March 12 story.

Letter by Pell

On March 21, Pell wrote to Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. His letter, in part, said:

"I respectfully request that

the transcript of our Foreign Relations Committee meeting of Feb. 21 be released to the press.

"I make this request because press accounts based on incomplete data have been inaccurate and misleading, particularly in regard to my own participation."

Pell said he planned to "make the appropriate motion at the first opportunity." Fulbright's reply to Pell, also dated March 21, said "decisions of this kind are within the prerogative of the committee."

Formal Request

Pell made his formal request at a May 3 executive session of the committee, but was defeated on a voice vote after what one committee aide described as "considerable discussion."

Long was not available for Symington said he would have been glad to have the transcript released but would not disclose how he voted or whether his position at the Feb. 21 meeting was accurately described by the comment.

Much of the material in the more than 30 derogatory columns written about Dodd in recent months by Pearson and Anderson has centered around allegations that the senator aided Klein following a 1963 Foreign Relations Committee investigation of foreign agents. Klein was one of those ques-

tioned by the committee. The columnists said Klein's reputation was damaged because of the hearings and that he called on Dodd to make a trip to Germany in 1964 to help Klein "hang onto his clients."

In a \$5 million libel suit filed last week against Pearson and Anderson, Dodd said the allegations were "false, malicious and defamatory."